

# **STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS COUNTY OF NEWPORT**

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, the 17th day of February 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Road.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Council President deMedeiros , Vice-President Chabot (Late), Councilor Lambert, Councilor Peter Mello, Councilor Pelletier (Late), Councilor Perry and Councilor Sousa.

Town Administrator Matthew Wojcik and Town Clerk Nancy Mello were also present.

## **1. Call To Order:**

President deMedeiros opened the Special Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag then called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk Nancy Mello called the roll, Councilors Chabot and Pelletier will be late.

## **2. Town Administrator – Discussion Regarding Method to Address Fire Department Overtime**

Discussion on Fire Department overtime was addressed, Chief Lloyd was not yet in attendance at this meeting. President deMedeiros referring to the previous meeting discussion noted the Fire Department (FD) has 2 Rescues, one in the North End one in the South End. Town Administrator Wojcik explained that the Crandall Road Station has the old Rescue; the Marine rescue is stored across the street from the Main Road station for a fee. Crandall Road has the utility truck, runs of varying length. Very little mutual aid comes this way. President deMedeiros noted Councilor Lambert was concerned about the discrepancy in overtime numbers, knows the T/A has a plan, some funds in future needs account. T/A Wojcik explained the overtime figure was a moving target, are very few ways the Council can go at this, is contractual. This was a cumulative effort over many years, 32 Fire Fighters (FF), 8 per shift, minimum staffing at 7, consistently running overtime. Councilors can look at the duty roster sheets; need to see the relation to bring forward in Executive Session. Councilor Sousa thought these duty rosters were public record. T/A Wojcik noted have to see the pattern, 8 people on, 2 out injured on duty (IOD), if 1 is sick or out it backfills to 7, costs approximately \$1,400 in overtime. President deMedeiros suggested putting this on for the next Executive Session. Councilor Sousa suggested assigning numbers so names are not shown could still see the pattern. Town Clerk Mello commented, time sheets are public records, so are the rosters. T/A Wojcik discussed a solution with Chief Lloyd, recommend 2 FF in the IOD status, still pay clothing , longevity, bench is thin, recommend hiring 2 more FF's. Councilor Chabot arrived at this time, 7:15 p.m. Trying to get the 2 from IOD to disability. The alternative may be more appropriate for Executive Session to push back the shift number to 6.

Administrator Wojcik explained, hiring 1 FF would cost about \$65,000. Councilor Sousa suggested looking at breaking the contract cut down the number of men per shift or close one station. Councilor Perry questioned a possible 56 hour work week, President deMedeiros noted a 24 hour shift would be overtime. Two extra men will help with minimum manning, the number of platoons and the hours. President deMedeiros noted someone is always out, have overtime all summer long. T/A Wojcik explained training someone new takes overtime hours. Councilor Sousa requested stats to show if the Town reduced the number of stations, the number of men per shift, has to be a better way to answer calls. President deMedeiros explained dispatchers don't know what to expect, should get run reports from the South Station to see how often they go out. T/A Wojcik noted, has to do with response times, they have a standardized plan of action, would still run 911 exactly the same. President deMedeiros noted during negotiations the union has to be made aware of the need for a solution. Councilor Sousa suggested an RFQ for looking into privatizing ambulance services if the Council can't get cooperation. President deMedeiros was not in favor of privatizing. Councilor Perry noted, need to do something different in negotiations as this has not been working. T/ A Wojcik noted need something more permanent, need to hire FF's with experience, would be a different kind of list. Town Clerk Mello recalled years ago a station did close, but did not have minimum manning, Louise Durfee at the time took a lot of heat for that. Councilor Perry was all for doing something, noted this to be a brotherhood, they will call in sick and find a way, sees this in other communities. President deMedeiros noted the need for a solution right now. T/A Wojcik explained there is a management plan for the Chief that cross references to the contract. President deMedeiros added, if not hiring 2

extra men, need to increase overtime funds. Councilor Sousa questioned if there was a date for the IOD, T/A Wojcik explained they need 3 independent examinations to go before the pension disability board. Councilor Sousa questioned if the IOD could do light duty work. T/A Wojcik suggested asking Chief Lloyd, has to do with the contract. Councilor Perry suggested that in itself could be a liability, at one time was a deterrent. President deMedeiros noted Chief Lloyd expected it to cost \$433k, at this rate. Councilor Sousa suggested breaking the contract, believed there was something in State law. Councilor Perry noted, are in negotiations, do not want to spend \$433k on overtime, willing to give 2 men to the department to cut overtime. Councilor Sousa suggested cutting man hours, President deMedeiros noted the solution is to decrease minimum manning. Councilor Peter Mello called the overtime figures unacceptable.

T/A Wojcik discussed health care, contacted the Trust, wanted to know how much the numbers were going to go up. The Trust was unable to come up with a number, expect 6-9% for dental, should be closer to the higher end. The health insurance increase will be higher, budgeted 4%. Councilor Lambert suggested the Labor lawyers come up with a game plan for FD overtime, finding of facts. T/A Wojcik going back to health insurance requested changing Group Health Insurance from \$1,965 million to \$2,041,600, a \$76k increase. SD has more people going to the Plan 65, insuring fewer people. Town Clerk Mello noted there was still stabilization money. T/A Wojcik noted \$45k was used last year. Councilor Perry suggested taking \$76k out of the stabilization fund. Councilor Chabot was amazed the BC increased their budget. Town Clerk Mello explained they wanted to have their meeting videotaped and want someone to take notes. Town Clerk Mello was taking the video tape money out of Council Contingency.

Councilor Perry made a motion, seconded by Councilor Sousa to take \$76,000 from the stabilization fund to offset health insurance increases. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Perry was prepared to make a motion to leave it at \$2,176,023, hire two more men and have Administrator Wojcik negotiate. President deMedeiros believed the Council had management prerogative especially as a temporary measure to decrease overtime. Councilor Perry suggested looking at this for a year. President deMedeiros noted it was not every member of the department. T/A Wojcik suggested waiting for Chief Lloyd, best person to answer questions about the department. T/A Wojcik has frozen certain accounts to help with the overtime. Councilor Sousa visited the FD, talked with the mechanic, looked at the rescue vehicle, suggested a professional company look at the vehicle. There is high mileage on the motor, have a float vehicle while that ambulance can be repaired and get an estimate. Feel confident can get another year out of this ambulance; don't really have an answer yet. T/A Wojcik commented, lot of considerations here, low cost option is to change out the box, asked for the entire repair history. Concerned about the number of miles, rotation of payments. Councilor Sousa suggested sticking to the replacement schedule, larger equipment needs to be stretched out. Rescue 1 is 9 years old, Rescue 2 is 5 years old, stretch out Rescue 1 for one more year, Councilor Perry questioned the life expectancy of the vehicle. T/A Wojcik came up with 7 years, may not have value as a backup after being 10 years old. Councilor Perry agreed, need to be on a program for vehicle replacement. President deMedeiros discussed the Fire Marshall, T/A Wojcik put in the budget at the Captain's base salary. Management believes this position needs to be tested, should not be by seniority. Several Councilors agreed, T/A Wojcik wanted to resolve the problem instead of 4 Fire Marshall's have one on a consistent basis. Councilor Sousa suggested doing like Little Compton, have the State Fire Marshall do inspections. T/A Wojcik noted the higher fees, accessibility is low. The Town collects fees, have helped to purchase vehicles, the FD does generate a significant amount of revenue. President deMedeiros recapped, the Administrator will check on the ambulance, the possibility of hiring 2 men and pull the run sheets from the FD for Monday's Executive Session.

### **3. Overall Discussion and Possible Votes on FY 2015/2016 Budget**

The DPW budget was discussed next; DPW Director Steven Berlucchi answered questions from the Council. Director Berlucchi questioned \$20k for the former WW Superintendent. Will not be enough money for on-site inspections. Previously were going to buy a camera, have applied for a grant from DEM. Councilor Sousa suggested calling DEM; they have the power and authority to make someone fix a problem, the Town usually goes out first. T/A Wojcik explained has to do with the cesspool phase out, see a lack of proper support in this area to move forward. Could go out to bid, Councilor Sousa suggested DEM should be doing this work. T/A Wojcik will be meeting with Fall River, they have

been held up by fees, too high, the more sign ups they have the lower the user fees. To gain customers Fall River is dropping the \$550 charge picking up an area around Hancock Street and around the pond. Director Berlucchi discussed the landfill closure, have not received free landfill cover from outside sources, closing a section need 2 feet of cap, will be \$2million short. Councilor Sousa suggested asking the engineers, doing in house also suggested closing the landfill; Director Berlucchi explained the closure is a \$9million dollar construction project. Councilor Sousa suggested having the engineer's just grade and move the stuff. Director Berlucchi noted that would be 33 acres of dirt. Director Berlucchi explained the need for a new furnace for the highway garage, need one furnace replaced right now.

Councilor Peter Mello made a motion to increase On Site Wastewater to \$35k from \$20k. Discussion followed. Councilor Sousa suggested taking the landfill cover money out of the restricted account. Councilor Lambert provided a status synopsis, Pare Engineering estimated the landfill would run out of room by January 2017, calculations estimated \$9million to close the landfill, has not been funded for 3 years. Part of the plan was to add the PAYT revenues to the \$168k set aside in the landfill closure account to come up with \$9million. Councilor Sousa suggested stockpiling fill now. Councilor Perry agreed with Councilor Sousa. Councilor Perry did not have a problem with going out to bond to close the landfill. T/A Wojcik explained the only increase in the DPW budget aside from contractual items was the snow plow account went from \$60k to 70k. Councilor Perry pointed out that still has \$20k in this year's budget. President deMedeiros reminded there was a motion on the floor. Councilor Peter Mello rescinded the motion. Councilor Chabot wanted to know what the \$20k on site wastewater was being spent on. If the Wastewater District does not want to participate, then those records could be inspected. Director Berlucchi explained the Hot Box request, T/A Wojcik was hoping to get funds from this year's budget, however will need most of that for sand and salt. President deMedeiros noted the Council discussed the DPW, Fire, Police and Town Administrator's budgets. Regarding the Code Enforcement budget the T/A took out the part time clerical to fill the Code Official's salary. President deMedeiros wanted to make sure Steve Hughes was notified, still having budget discussions on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Will discuss EDC on the 28<sup>th</sup>, need Scott Humphrey to appear. Have done Tax Assessor, Tax Collector; suggest putting Police Pension on the 28<sup>th</sup>. President deMedeiros suggested going with the recommendation. T/A Wojcik cut the request for an Assistant Harbormaster from the budget. President deMedeiros reminded have to talk about the library budget on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Town Clerk Mello recapped for the February 28 meeting Steve Hughes, Planning Board, Police Pension, Library and Revenues. President deMedeiros listed upcoming meetings, Monday 2/23 regular meeting, Tuesday 2/24 Planning Board at the High School, Monday 3/2 workshop, Saturday 3/14 interviews for legal services at 9:00 am, Monday 3/16 interviews at 7pm, tentatively holding 3/18 and 3/24 for interviews if necessary and Monday 3/30 for Streets, Cynthia Ave.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilor Pelletier motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Sousa, passed unanimously.

The Special Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**A True Copy. ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_ Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk